

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A packaging machine moves its heater unit for longitudinal sealing  
of a tubularly formed film between a sealing position at which the heater unit  
contacts the film and a retracted position at which it is separated from the film.  
In addition to the mechanism for this motion, an air cylinder is provided for  
controlling the compressive force with which the heater unit at its sealing position  
compresses the film. A pressure controlling system regulates the air pressure  
10 supplied to the air cylinder. If the mechanism for moving the heater unit also  
employs another air cylinder, a higher pressure for moving the heater unit and a  
lower pressure for controlling its compressive force may be generated from a  
single air source and supplied to the two air cylinders by a switching mechanism.  
A single air cylinder with two air chambers may be used for the both functions. A  
15 motor is additionally provided for removing the heater unit and its support unit  
much farther away from the film to provide a large enough space for exchanging  
the former and/or the chute of the packaging machine.